

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/681,241

Examiner

Michael J. Fisher

Applicant(s)

HURZELER, PHILIP

Art Unit

3629

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 3/28/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5 and 8-13.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
PTOL-37 (Rev. 7-05)

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 5 and 8-13 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: As to claims 5 and 8, the prior art does not teach further soliciting compatibility criteria or further travel plans as the Posting traveler and Browsing traveler desire.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US PAT 6,751,548 to Fox et al. discloses a method for commuters with travel plans to meet that includes ranking the travel plans according to optimality, they do not, however, teach allowing the travelers to add supplemental information such as compatibility criteria and further travel plan information, US PAT 4,360,875 to Behnke teaches a way for commuters to check travel plans but does not teach ranking travel plans and allowing a browser to choose the optimal one and further does not teach allowing users to post further options such as compatibility criteria, such as a smoking car or non-smoking car, and further travel plans, such as alternate route information. JP 2003186959 to Asakura et al. (note, information is taken from the

Art Unit: 3629

English-language abstract as provided) discloses a car pool meeting method but does not teach ranking travel plans and allowing a browser to choose the optimal one and further does not teach allowing users to post further options such as compatibility criteria, such as a smoking car or non-smoking car, and further travel plans, such as alternate route information, RideshareOnline.com (from 2/1/01 as saved by the Internet Archive) discloses matching riders with commuters, but does not teach compatibility criteria or further travel plans, Dateable.com (from 12/14/99 as saved by the Internet Archive) discloses connecting people together according to location and desired location and using compatibility criteria, Dateable.com is a dating service and not a travel service and further, does not teach an algorithm for determining the best starting and ending locations, they merely check to see where you want to go.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Fisher whose telephone number is 571-272-6804. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:30am-5:00pm alt Fri. off.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3629

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MF 

4/3/06